THE TENNESSEE FARMER.

BY THOMAS EMMERSON, AT $1 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE—OR $1 50 AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

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Gross misconceptions as to the Nature and Value of Agricultural Papers.

Among a large portion of those who are engaged in Agriculture, an idea prevails, that Agricultural Papers are only valuable as the means of conveying to the public that agricultural knowledge acquired by their conductors, of which the rest of mankind are ignorant.—Nothing can be more fallacious than such a notion, and it is one of a most pernicious tendency to the great cause of Agricultural Improvement, and, consequently, to the best interests of the country. True, the conductor of an Agricultural Paper, if a practical Farmer, should, and if well qualified for his task he will, feel that solicitude for the improvement of his occupation which will induce him, not only to reason and to reflect on the subject, but often to reduce, to the infallible test of actual experiment, the suggestions of his own mind, as well as those which may be made by others. But were the promulgation of the knowledge thus acquired by a single individual, no matter how accomplished a farmer he might be, the only benefit to be derived from the perusal of his paper, its beneficial influence would necessarily be confined within comparatively very narrow limits indeed. It must be recollected that there are thousands in every civilized country on the globe, who are constantly engaged in efforts, by the same means, to acquire a more perfect knowledge of their profession, and who are every year contributing largely to the existing stock of agricultural knowledge. To disseminate as widely as possible, not only the new discoveries thus made by this vast number, both of scientific and practical Farmers, and, what is perhaps of even still greater importance, to diffuse throughout the great mass of farmers the existing knowledge, now confined to a few, to illustrate the benefits, both public and private, which must result from reducing it generally to practice, and to urge on all engaged in agriculture the adoption of such a course, by appeals, not only to their patriotism, to their ambition for distinction in their profession, but to the still more powerful motive of self interest in most men. These are the great objects aimed at by agricultural papers—objects, to the attainment of which they are admirably adapted, and objects which they have actually accomplished to an immense extent in every country in which they have received an extent of patronage in any degree proportioned to their intrinsic value and high importance. Were this notoriously correct view of the subject generally entertained, self interest alone would effectually secure to agricultural publications, at least among farmers and planters, a far more general and extensive patronage than they have ever yet received, for it may be safely asserted, that while they are among the cheapest, periodicals of the day, no farmer of common intelligence can regularly peruse an agricultural paper conducted with ordinary ability without being actually benefitted, even in a pecuniary point of view, to an amount at least tenfold greater than the price of his subscription—besides the salutary and the almost incalculable benefit which the farmers' children cannot fail to derive from the intellectual and moral improvement produced by the reading of such a paper. The general circulation of such works should, therefore, be zealously promoted and encouraged, not only by the agricultural community, but by all who feel any interest in the welfare and prosperity of their country.

WISDOM AND FOLLY.

In what does Wisdom consist? Scarce a question can be propounded which would be more erroneously responded to by the mass of mankind. By some, wisdom is confounded with learning—and, therefore, he who is learned, is pronounced to be wise; but the great number of learned fools who have always abounded in the world, should, one would think, long since have satisfied all mankind, that wisdom and learning are two very different things. He who honestly, with a sincere and ardent desire to attain truth, consults his understanding and his conscience, and yields a ready obedience to their decisions, however illiterate he may be, is a wise man. He who refuses to consult these, but yields himself up a passive and degraded slave to the impulses of his inferior faculties, however learned he may be, is a fool. Suppose a man to be living in a house with a dozen or half a dozen other men, suppose him to be told, by a person having authority over him, that two of these were men of wisdom and integrity, who were both capable and desirous of answering all his inquiries correctly, and that the others were all ignorant and vicious men, destitute of the capacity to discover truth, and always disposed to deceive whenever it would promote their own gratification, and suppose he were directed by his superior, on all occasions, to consult the former, and to act in conformity to their directions. Suppose him to know, that all this was true, and that, notwithstanding, he would refuse to consult the two wise men, but, on the contrary, give himself up to the guidance and control of the others. Should we not instantly pronounce him to be a fool? And if we had ascertained, that his folly did not proceed from the want of intellectual capacity, but from a perversion of the will, should we not unhe-

sitatingly pronounce him, of all other criminals, the most deserving of punishment from his superior? And would it not be impossible for us to pity him for any sufferings which he might thus have voluntarily brought upon himself? Strange as we may think such conduct would be, it is every day presented to our view, and but seldom excites consideration or reflection in our own minds. The Deity has conferred on man many faculties, adapted to various purposes, and designed for different uses. He has given us understanding, or the reasoning faculty, to enable us to distinguish truth from falsehood, and conscience, to enable us to discover right from wrong. He has also given us many inferior faculties, passions, and appetites, most of which, we share in common with the brutes. By the very act of conferring these faculties, he demonstrates, that it is his will, and, therefore, the first law of our nature, that we should exert them all about their appropriate objects, and that the first two should exercise uncontrollable dominion over us. When, therefore, we refuse to inquire of reason and of conscience what is true or false, right or wrong,—but instead thereof, consult our appetites, passions, and those blind instinctive animal feelings and sympathies which we share in common with the brutes, for the purpose of directing our conduct, we, by this very act, rebel against the first law of our nature, and are guilty of as gross folly as the man who should prefer the advice of knaves and fools, to that of wise and virtuous men; and where is the man who, to a greater or less extent, does not commit such acts of folly and stupidity? He who is least guilty in this respect, is the wisest man. He who is most guilty, let his pretensions to learning be what they may, and let his bloated and disgusting vanity puff him up to whatever degree of self conceit it may, is the greatest fool, the most incorrigible rebel against the law of his nature, and the mandates of his Creator, and deserves the highest degree of punishment which can justly be inflicted for crime—the most infamous grade of which consists in the refusal to exert the understanding and to consult the conscience. The next grade in the true scale of infamy consists, in consulting and exercising the intellectual and moral faculties, and then acting in opposition to their dictates. The first class have rebelled against the first law of their nature, and have voluntarily assumed the brutal character, as being more congenial to their taste. The latter has been unwilling wholly to renounce the dignity of his nature, but having obeyed its first law, and preserved his intellectual superiority, he has, by the violation of the second, lost all claim to moral superiority, having voluntarily subjected his conscience to the degrading tyranny of his animal propensities. Both most richly merit the execration of all virtuous, moral agents, but the former is a more just object of contempt, being alike destitute of all pretensions to either moral or intellectual dignity. Thus it will appear, that thoughtless inconsideration which, because so common, mankind, from a desire to preserve their own reputations, have chosen to esteem a foible or pardonable imperfection, is, in truth, the lowest grade of crime of which an intellectual and moral agent can be guilty—so it is esteemed by all upright intelligences, and so would it be esteemed by fallen man, but for his wish, dishonestly to preserve a rank in his own estimation, and in the estimation of others, to which he has no just title whatever. How important then is it, that the mind be trained to habits of thought and reflection. This can only be done by education, and nothing which fails to accomplish this, whatever learning it may bestow, deserves the name of Education, the utmost it can possibly accomplish is, to manufacture a learned fool.

SHEEP.

A Correspondent has furnished us with the following receipt, which he says he knows, from repeated experiments, to be "good for making strong wool and healthy sheep." It is easy, cheap, and well worthy of trial.

"When the Sheep is shorn, dip a cloth in soft soap, and rub the sheep all over—then dip the cloth in warm water and give the sheep a complete lather, and let it go."

For the Tennessee Farmer.

SWEET POTATOES.

In the cultivation of every thing, we should consider of what kind it is; to what climate it belongs, and what kind of soil is best adapted to its production. From a neglect to consider these things, many unsuccessful efforts have been made to raise the sweet potatoe. The sweet potatoe is a native of a warm climate, and of a light, sandy soil. We should then, as far as possible, endeavor to combine these two things, by a judicious selection of a piece of ground upon which to raise them. I will give you the plan which I have adopted in raising Sweet Potatoes, which has been very successful. Perhaps some who have heretofore failed, may be enabled to succeed better by adopting it.

Some time in March, when I think the hard frosts are over, I take my potatoes from the cellar, where they have been kept through the winter: I prepare a bed in my garden, by levelling the surface of the ground: I then spread my potatoes over it, until they are not more than two or three inches thick: I then cover them with the rich surface soil, just so deep as I think necessary to prevent their being injured by light frosts. In this situation I let them remain until the season for planting.

Early in the spring I select what I suppose will be a suitable piece of ground. In making this selection, I chuse a piece which lies fair to the sun, is tolerably rich, and considerably sandy.

I break it up deep, and then let it remain until I wish to plant, which is some time between the middle of May and the first of June. I then plough again, and harrow well, so as to make it as mellow as possible. I then take a one horse bar share plough, and ridge up my ground by throwing three furrows together. This done, I cross it with a single furrow at the distance of about three feet. A very slight operation with the hoe afterwards prepares my hills, for I do not want them very large nor high. I now go to my bed, and find my potatoes are all nicely sprouted, and those nearest the surface are up, and some of them have two and three leaves; but none, or but few, have yet any roots. I carefully remove the earth so as not to break the sprouts from my potatoes—for if they are broken off, they are destroyed. I put two or three potatoes in a hill, according as they are large or small, being careful always to leave the tops of the sprouts out of the ground, or near the surface, as they may be more or less advanced—so that when I am done planting, my potatoes are up, or nearly so.

You are now ready to inquire of me what I have gained by this process? I answer, several things. First, my hills are now light and mellow, and ready to receive and nourish the young roots when they start—not baked, or rendered compact by the heavy spring rains. Secondly, I have completely subdued the grass and weeds. for they all had started to grow between the time of breaking my ground and the time of making the hills. I have then avoided all the trouble and labor of scraping down the hills two or three times before the potatoes are up, or while they are so small as not to admit of being hilled with the hoe. Thirdly, the earth and the season have now become warm, and my potatoes grow up rapidly. I work my potatoes in the following way: When the vines have elongated half way down the hills, I pass twice between the hills each way with a bull tongue plough; this mellows the ground. I then, with a hoe, cover, say one-third of the vine, leaving the remainder out, but yet so as not to make the hill very large.—This is all the work they require; for before the grass and weeds have time to start, the vines have so covered the ground as to smother them.

Two years ago I did not plant my potatoes until the 7th day of June. The season was unfavorable; yet I made a fine crop, and the largest potatoes of the kind I have ever seen in Tennessee.

A SMALL FARMER.

Hopewell, Feb. 10th, 1836.

The receipts from public lands, since the first of September last, amount to nearly ten millions of dollars, and there are besides, now outstanding, transfer warrants for seven millions more.

CLOVER.

The fertilizing character of this grass is so universally acknowledged that it is unnecessary to dwell upon it. But it may be proper to say to those who may have neglected to sow it upon their wheat or rye, that they may do so with advantage with their oats. This we do not, of course, recommend as a practice to be followed, but as a contingency which should be availed of in preference to neglecting the sowing of clover seed; for we hold it to be utterly impossible to keep up any soil, except at an enormous expense, to a healthful and vigorous tilth, without occasional turning in of clover leys, a crop of buckwheat, or something of the kind to act as a pabulum for such calcareous manures as may be applied; and while we are upon this branch of the subject we would remark, that every farmer who desires to see his land carried to a high state of cultivation should cover a certain portion of his grounds every year with lime, or calcareous earth in some of its various forms.

Farmer & Gardener.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.

Extract of a letter from a subscriber at Cayuga: "As the time for sowing clover seed is approaching, some note in your paper of practical farmers on that subject may be of some service and save some the trouble of complaining of the loss or failure of their expected crop of clover. For several years past I have practiced sowing my seed the last of March or first of April, when we have frosty nights and thawing days. The mornings then are generally still—the surface of the ground is raised by the spars of ice formed during the night—and if the seed is cast on the ground such mornings, it finds its way through the crevices occasioned by the ice beneath the surface of the earth sufficiently deep to protect the young plant from the drouths of April or May, by which our clover crop is frequently destroyed, if the seed is sown when the surface of the earth is compact. Since I have practiced in this way, I have not failed in a single instance of having a full crop of clover."

Seed Corn—"like will produce like,"—therefore in selecting your seed, gather none but the best, and that only from stalks which have borne one or more ears. By adopting this plan you will find that the quality of your corn will not only be improved, but the product increased.

The first year's income of the British and Foreign Bible Society was not more than $24,000 and has gone on increasing until last year, when it amounted to $428,000.

GYPSUM.

If Sir Humphrey Davy and others are right, in supposing that plaster of Paris constitutes a specific food for some plants, and that it requires four or five hundred parts of water to render it soluble, so that it may be taken up by their absorbent vessels—and we are inclined to believe they are right—plaster ought to be sown upon grass grounds in March, so that the vernal rains may carry it into the soil, where there is constant moisture to decompose it, and where the roots, the mouths of plants, are waiting to receive it. There is much doubt among farmers, as to the manner in which this mineral benefits farm crops, and whether it benefits only a few and which these are. It is generally conceded, that upon porous and dry soils, it does benefit clovers, corn, potatoes, peas, and generally all plants having broad and succulent leaves. But it is a matter of doubt, at least in our minds, whether its application is directly beneficial to timothy, wheat, rye, or barley. Now is the time for every farmer to satisfy himself upon these points.—Let him sow a strip of his grass in March, another in April, and another in May, with gypsum, and note the difference, if any. Let him sow a strip on his wheat, his rye, his timothy, and his barley, leaving adjoining parts unplastered. The results cannot fail to instruct him in its operation and its use. Facts thus established by repeated observation, become science, and are useful to the world, and although the term may be contemned by the ignorant farmers, it constitutes the basis of all improvement in the arts of civilization and refinement. Any experiments made in pursuance of these suggestions, will be gratefully received and recorded.

From the Maine Farmer.

Causes of poverty among some farmers in Maine.

Mr. Holmes:—I have thought that I might do some good by mentioning a few of the causes of the poverty of the framers in the State of Maine. And first, in a negative point of view. It is not because the crops are not as good or as much to the acre as other parts of the United States. When Greenleaf prepared his statistics of Maine some years ago, the average of wheat crops were, in the county of Kennebec, eighteen bushels per acre, and it is believed there has since been an improvement in that, and a very great one too in this section. I think we may now state the average at more than 20 bushels. It is alike good for all the small grains. Grass is abundant in most seasons. We must therefore look for the positive causes somewhere else, and not in the unproductiveness of the soil. I will now mention a few things which I think have a bearing to a great extent on the farming community.—And first, their mode of living. It costs a farmer in the State of Maine more to live than it does perhaps in any other State in the Union, and I am certain that it costs more to our farmers to raise up a family of four, than it used to sixty years ago, in Massachusetts, to raise up a family of fourteen.

Second. The raising of so much poor and ordinary neat stock and horses. At the present prices none but the best will pay for raising. Our farmers are under family temptations to raise bad stock, a calf comes, round and fat; at three weeks old he is a handsome creature. The boys plead to have him raised. Good family cows being heifer calves; the good housewife insists that they shall be kept and raised; with this argument, viz: that they will make as good as their dams. Another cause of raising calves is, the wife says she cannot spare the milk to fatten it. Now you should resist all these; kill all your calves but the very best; and give them good keeping. It is impossible that a country where black cattle and horses are fed on dry food so long in the year can afford to raise poor cattle. Set down the first stormy day and calculate the cost accurately and satisfy yourself.

Third. Not ploughing land as often as it ought to be, is another reason. They must sow more—and they do not employ as much capital upon their farms as would be profitable. An English farmer would have a compost heap, $4000, while many of our farmers carry on extensive farms without using manure of every description enough to cost as many cents.

The crops of some Pennsylvania farmers, from 100 acres, amount to from 3 to 5 thousand dollars per annum. Calculate if you please the profits of almost any tilled crops, and there will be a fair profit. Wheat,

barley, oats and peas, or even oats alone, are all profitable. By neglecting the above, we do not raise our own bread, when we ought to raise hundreds of barrels of flour for market; and it can be done witb profit. Try your arithmetic again some leisure evening.

We withhold more thanis meet. Many do not take an Agricultural paper. This I mention last, though not least. Knowledge is power.

A VOTER AND A FARMER.

FAMILY ECONOMY.

There is nothing which goes so far towards placing young people beyond the reach of poverty, as economy in the management of their affairs. It is as much impossible to get a ship across the Atlantic with half a dozen buts started or as many bolt holes in her hull, as to conduct the concerns of a family without economy. It matters not whether a man furnish little or much for a family, if there is a continual leakage in the kitchen, or in the parlor, it runs away, he knows not how; and that demon, waste, cries more, like the horseleech's daughter, until he that provides has no more to give. It is the husband's duty to bring into the house, and it is the duty of the wife to see that nothing goes wrongfully out of it—not the least article, however unimportant in itself, for it establishes a precedent; nor under any pretence, for it opens a door of ruin to stalk in, and he seldom leaves an opportunity unimproved. A man gets a wife to look after his affairs, to assist him in his journey through life, to educate and prepare his children for a proper station in life,and who will not dissipate his property. The husband's interest should be the wife's care, and her ambition should carry her no farther than his welfare and happiness, together with that of her children. This should be her sole aim, the theatre of her exploits is in the bosom of her family, where she may do as much in making a fortune as he possibly can do in the counting house or work shop. It is not the money earned that makes a man wealthy, it is what is saved from his earnings. A good and prudent husband makes deposites of the fruits of his labor with his best friend; and if that friend be not true to him what has he to hope? A wife acts not for herself only, but she is the agent of the man she loves. And she is bound to act for their good, and not for her own gratification. Her husband's good is the end at which she should aim; his approbation, is her reward. Self-gratification in dress or indulgence in appetite, or more company than his purse can entertain, are equally pernicious. The first adds vanity to extravagance; the second fastens a doctor's bill to a long butcher's account, and the latter brings intemperance, the worst of all evils, in its train.

He who spends most of his time in mere sports and recreations, is like him whose garments are made altogether of fringe and whose diet is nothing but sauce.

GRAPE VINES AND CUTTINGS.

No one who has a few feet of ground to spare should be without some of the choicest varieties of the grape; for of a truth there are but few delicacies of the fruit kind, so grateful to the human palate as are fine well ripened luscious grapes. Those, therefore, who have not already provided themselves with this treat to the females of their families should avail themselves of the present season to do so. The cuttings in three years if properly planted and attended to, will bear fruit, and the vine of three years old or more, if taken up well and planted with care, will bear a moderate quantity of grapes the *present* season; we speak advisedly, having removed a grape last spring on the 14th of March, which was four years old, and which bore a few bunches of grapes.

In planting a vineyard, a choice of soil and situation is highly important. Of the soil we would remark, that a light, rich, deep loam resting on a limestone, calcareous, or gravelly bottom is best; but if neither of these be attainable, a very good substitute may be found in liming the land or giting it a good dressing of marl.

The situation should be on an elevation inclining to the south or south-west; the ground should have a gradual descent, that the moisture may be drained off. If defended from the north and north-west winds so much the better.

Those who only desire to grow a few vines for their own table need not apprehend any difficulty, be their situation what it may, as the grape will grow in any exposure and soil about the dwelling, and indeed a very few vines will supply the table of any family, and as to exposure and soil, both can be found congenial in almost any location of a mansion, whether in town or country, and, indeed, all the varieties o foreign grapes succeed best when protected by the warmth of town-quarters.—*Farm. &*

From the Southern Agriculturist.

ON MANURES.

Report of the Committee on Agricultural subjects, &c.

[Concluded.]

To answer the third query, we must inquire into what has been done in other countries or states, and what is usually the expense.

We have, on this subject, the undoubted testimony of almost every European writer on agriculture. In those countries, carbonate of lime, in the form and by the name of marl, has been used to restore fertility to land from time immemorial. Lime, in a caustic state, has also been much used for the same purpose, and when applied with judgment, the result has always been satisfactory. Sir H. Davy says, (p. 182), in his Agricultural Chemistry: "The labor of improving the texture or the constitution of the soil, is repaid by a great permanent advantage, less manure is required, and its fertility insured; and capital laid out in this way, *secures forever, the productiveness, and consequently the value of the land.*" Also, in another place (p. 164):—"The soils which contain the most alumina and carbonate of lime, are those which act with the greatest energy in preserving manures. Such soils merit the appellation which is commonly given to them of rich soils; for the vegetable nourishment is long preserved in them, unless taken up by the organs of the plants." James Anderson, L. L. D., in his Essays relating to Agriculture, &c. says (p. 169): "Lime is the most universal manure for unproductive land. Of all the manures that can be obtained for improving waste lands, nothing is equal to lime, or other calcareous matter." And in p. 198: "I scruple not again to repeat, for it cannot be too strongly inculcated, that lime, or other calcareous matter, applied in large quantities, must form the basis of all radical improvements of waste lands.—Lime tends to sweeten the grasses, produced on every soil, to which it has been applied, so as to render them more palatable to all animals; it augments the quantum of the produce considerably; it thus renders the ground capable of sustaining a greater number of beasts. These, of course, produce more dung, and that dung if applied in conjunction with the lime, will produce greater and more lasting effects than it could have done without it. It would seem that heaven with a view to reward the industry of man, and to set no limits to the melioration of the soil, had so disposed this universal fertilizer over our globe, as to bring it within our reach, by the exertions of human industry, almost every where. Whatever, therefore, tends to facilitate the acquisition of this manure to any particular place; whether by means of roads, canals, or any other device, must be considered as amongst the most useful of human exertions."

The quotations from these two writers must suffice, although numerous others, both from G. Britain and the continent, might be advantageously added, were it not for the fear of rendering this memoir much too voluminous. We cannot, however, refrain noticing something of this kind of improvement, that has been lately, and is now going on in increasing progress in some of our sister states, principally in Virginia. That most interesting work, lately published by Mr. Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia, entitled an "Essay on Calcareous Manures," second edition, together with his most invaluable monthly periodical, the "Farmers' Register," (publications which ought to be in the hands of every planter or farmer that can read), have already produced in the short space of little more than two years, very great improvements in the state of Virginia.—These works give such undoubted proofs of an increased zeal, in the planters and farmers of that country, as redounds, not only to their honor, but also greatly to their profits. Wherever it is found practicable, the beds of fossil shells are sought for, and transported on the worn-out or even on fresh lands, at an expense which may appear great in this country, where we are unused to such exertions, but in reality small when compared to the great increase of the crops. By means of these calcareous materials, fields which formerly produced eight or ten bushels of corn to the acre, and other grains in the same proportion, produce now thirty or more, and the land is thereby made fit for the production of wheat and clover, followed by another crop of corn or cotton. We cannot here enter into details, although they are most interesting; but we should not be doing justice to our subject or to our country, were we to neglect the mention of another very great advantage which is found to be derived from the same application of calcareous earths to the land, and that is, that the health of the country has been considerably improved by it. The short time that this invaluable manure has been used in the low country in Virginia and Maryland, does not only afford the most positive evidence of the permanence of this last mentioned benefit, but, from analogy, we are warranted in our hopes of the most permanent advantages from it.* The city of Mobile, from being some

* It is with sorrow and shame that we offer to correct the mistake which the author of the report has fallen into, and which has caused him to extend general eulogy where it is so little deserved. It is perfectly true, that all the beneficial results of the use of marl spoken of above, have been obtained, and to the fullest extent, by many individuals in both Virginia and Maryland.—But it must also be admitted that a far greater number in both these states, and still more in North Carolina, who possess equal means for availing themselves of this source of fertility and wealth, have either neglected it entirely, or used it very partially.—[Farmers' Register.

years ago a very sickly place, is now, and has been for a few years, a most healthy one. This is chiefly to be attributed to the paving of its streets with shells, and the filling up of the sunken and marshy places, and covering them with the same materials.

The use of lime in its caustic state for the purpose of disinfecting cemeteries, butcher-pens, &c., has been known from time immemorial; but that these great benefits could be extended over a large extent of country, seems a discovery that had been reserved for our own times. It is found that the carbonate of lime possesses this disinfecting power in at least as high a degree, and is preferable to the caustic lime, except when it is desirable to consume the noxious, putrescent matter. The greater cheapness of the carbonate may render it useful with that view alone; and may be used to cover battle-fields, which, besides the butcheries they have witnessed, frequently produce diseases in the country around. It is somewhat singular, that this most interesting fact was discovered in Europe about the same time that it was announced here, by Mr. Edmund Ruffin, as we find at the very moment we are writing this, in his Farmers' Register for November.

An obvious question here intrudes itself. Can this be true? Has lime either caustic, or as a carbonate, the wonderful effect of destroying the effluvia of putrefying vegetable or animal matters, which are considered as the greatest cause of bilious diseases? We then ask emphatically: is it true that lime is used effectually in preventing the bad smells arising from offensive places, from the receptacles of filth—has it not for centuries been the practice of throwing lime over the corpses that were buried in churches, to prevent infection? Can we doubt the fact related by Mr. Ruffin in his "Essay on Calcareous Manures," of an experiment which he has made, of covering the carcass of a cow, which had died in hot weather, with calcareous earth or fossil shells, by which all offensive smell was prevented, and all the gases produced by the putrefaction of the carcass, were evidently absorbed by the carbonate? Can we doubt the experience of ages on a point connected with this subject? If all this be true, it must necessarily follow, that the same means used on an extended scale must produce a commensurate effect. Now that we have a clue to guide us in our reasoning, may we not fairly attribute the well-known healthiness of the town of St. Augustine to the same cause? A considerable part of its vicinity is covered with shells, its houses are formed of a stone which is composed of small shells, and its streets are paved with the same materials.

Persons who have not extended their views on this subject, far and near, can scarcely have an idea of the vast and multifarious advantages that can be derived from a plentiful use of calcareous matters in agriculture. It is well known that many valuable plants grow thriftily only on soils either naturally calcareous or artificially made so. Among them we shall only notice such plants as bear papilionacious flowers. Of this class are lucern, clover, &c. It is frequently asked why these two most valuable plants will not thrive in this state. The fault has been some times attributed to the great heat of our summers, to the long droughts which frequently occur here, when these plants are parched and killed. It is most probable that the true answer would be, that our soil is too deficient in calcareous matter. The temperature of the state of Virginia, at an equal distance from the sea, differs very little from that of our state; and clover grows well there in suitable soils. It is, moreover, most positively ascertained, that calcareous lands are much less affected by droughts, or by too much rain, than others. It seems, then, most probable, that we have it in our power to cultivate here these two grasses, and have our clover fields as well as our neighbors; from which they derive almost incredible benefits. By means of clover, they are most undoubtedly enabled to enrich their lands, to any extent they please, according to their industry and intelligence. After clover, cotton, corn, or any other grain, grows admirably well. These advantages are truly incalculable, and they are, at least, to a certain, if not to the fullest extent, most unquestionably within our reach.—We need but will it, and put our shoulder to the wheel, and we are in the enjoyment of them. It is certainly with exceeding regret that we feel ourselves compelled to exhibit the state of our agriculture in such an unfavorable light; but the truth must be told. We are most fortunately, at present, in a state of peace; and, therefore, of prosperity; but we act as if this state of things could not possibly ever be changed.—With an abundance of fertile soil, we are dependent on others for our bread and meat, as also for our riding and carriage horses and working mules. If our ports were now to be blockaded by an enemy, we should be in a sad predicament, without either bread or meat in the state sufficient for its own support. It is true, that our neighbors would furnish us with these articles of first necessity; but it could only be at such prices as would make both the rich and the poor suffer. This should not be.

Respectfully submitted by

N. HERBEMONT,

Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Rectitude and modesty are nearly allied and rarely separated.

Let us take as much care to live well as to live long.

From the New York Cultivator.

OATS.

Judge Buel.—Sir: Seeing the result of some experiments of yours in the last Cultivator, we feel that we are not alone in failures. We are in the habit of adopting some new plan of agriculture almost every year: endeavoring always to improve our land and at the same time to increase our crops. In some instances I think we have been successful; in others the result of experiments remains to be proved. We wish at this time merely to state the exact product of a small piece of land of ours, lying near the Connecticut river, containing one acre and five eighths; the expense of raising, value of the crop, &c.

The land in question, we planted last year with Indian corn, sugar beet, and ruta baga; manured with about 20 loads of dung to the acre, and ploughed it under. The corn, (a little more than an acre) produced 160 bushels of ears. The sugar beet was a middling crop; and the ruta baga was almost an entire failure, owing probably to too early sowing and green manure.

Last spring we ploughed the ground as soon as it was dry enough; mixed one bushel of oats for the whole piece, sowed it dry, I think, (though we commonly soak and roll it in lime,) harrowed well, then sowed 15lbs. clover seed and rolled with a heavy roller. The crop grew full five feet high, and before harvest, was almost entirely blown down with high winds, so that we were obliged to pick it up with sickles. Last week we threshed with a machine, and cleaned 98 1-8 bushels of excellent grain. This will sell readily at 84 cents per bushel, which amounts to $82,74.

The expense of the crop, including threshing, was, by accurate estimation, $22,00, leaving for clear profit $60,74, besides the straw, which would probably sell for twelve or fifteen dollars.

We have never raised so heavy a crop of spring grain before, and attribute this in some measure to the roller, having never made use of one till this year. In October, when the clover was fully grown, we ploughed it under; which with the stubble, we think will be sufficient manure for a good crop of corn next year.

If the above statements are of any value, they are at your service.

T. P. HUNTINGTON,
T. G HUNTINGTON.

Hadley, Mass., Dec. 28, 1835.

SWINE.

A good sty is of the utmost importance in fatting hogs. Nor is it of less importance for keeping them in winter; as the more comfortable they are kept, the less nourishment they require. The sty should be proportioned in size to the number of swine it is to contain. One of sixteen feet by twelve, is probably sufficient for eight fatting swine. It should be divided into two apartments; that in the rear which should be about six feet wide, should be close and warm for the hogs to lie in. There should be a constant supply of dry litter when the weather is cool, for it is an essential point to keep them comfortable. The front part of the sty, which would then be about ten feet wide, should have the floor descending on one side for the filth to run off; and in this side should be an opening. The trough should be on the upper side, covered with one or more lids; and upright pieces should be set before it, at such distances apart as that one hog only could put his head between any two of them, in order that when feeding, the weaker animals should be protected against the stronger. The whole should be covered with a roof, for it is essential that they should be protected from storms, while they are in the outer or feeding apartment. According to the foregoing, if sixteen hogs are to be kept or fatted in the sty, it should be thirty-two feet long, and twelve wide, and in that case there might be a sleeping apartment at each end. These apartments should be again subdivided, that, for the quiet of the animals, particularly in fatting, too many may not be forced to lie together. It would probably be best also to divide the feeding apartment; for too many hogs kept together, are not apt to enjoy that peace and quiet which is necessary to their fatting well. Posts should also be set up in the sty for hogs to rub themselves. If thirty-two hogs are to be kept or fatted, then perhaps the best way is to have two styes of the dimensions last described, placed together, but with a roof over the whole, and a passage between them for the purpose of carrying food to the troughs. If a part of the roof extended considerably beyond the sty, it would afford a convenient cover for forming a heap of compost from the dung of the swine.

From the Genesee Farmer.

BREAKING AND MILKING COWS.

The proper management of cows to render them gentle and tractable is a thing of the first importance! The unpleasant consequences of attempting to milk unsubdued and irritable animals,—the loss of a swimming pail of milk,—"the long face, the grave step, an apology, and an empty pail,"—it is certainly always desirable to avoid. Even cows of naturally mild and gentle disposition, (for there is a great difference in them, as in almost all animals,) are sometimes completely spoiled by injudicious treatment. Where no system of management is adopted, and where animals are punished for bad conduct, merely as the convenience, caprice, or passion of the milker dictates, it is not to be expected that they will improve in manners, or become otherwise than a terror of female and finally of male milkers.

Whenever young cows show any thing of a rebellious disposition, the first thing they should be made to feel, is the *superior physical force* of man, in a decided and effectual manner. As soon as this is felt, the animal is overpowered, and prefers surrendering at once to contending further to manifest detriment. The best way to effect this, is to shut the animal up, and immediately accustom it to handling on every part, speaking to it at the same time in a loud firm voice a single word at a time, and at intervals. It will thus become familiar to us, and become conscious of superior power. This consciousness will be more strongly produced, if the handling be firm, and even rough. An animal should never, for the same reason, be spoken to in a *coaxing* voice, though a kind and soothing tone should always be adopted whenever it manifests submission. If it should show a disposition to resist, as by kicking, the act should be followed *instantaneously* by a *single* stroke of a whip, or other punishment. If this is *invariably* adopted, the animal soon submits, not finding it pleasant or profitable to resist. But never punish an animal unless it can be done instantly after the commission of the offence, and never strike but once, and above all, never get in a passion, for this will certainly spoil the whole. If an animal thus finds that bad behaviour is always followed immediately by punishment, and that submission is always attended with kind treatment, it soon learns to distinguish one from the other; and a change in its manners is wrought in a remarkably short space of time. We have seen cows of several years of age, and apparently of almost incorrigible ferocity, completely metamorphosed in this respect, so as never for years to show the slightest disposition to resist or disobey; but on the contrary to become even attached to their master. We need not ask how much more humane to the animal, or pleasant to the keeper, this is, than where a different course is pursued.

It will assist materially in the breaking of young cows, to accustom them to be frequently handled from the first year; and to enable them to acquire a familiarity with the voice and presence of man.

A heifer should never be allowed to have a calf till the early part of summer, or if deferred even until nearly the middle it will be no detriment. It will then be most vigorous, and there will then be a better supply of nutritious grass for food, which will cause a more perfect enlargement or swelling of the udder. The period of gestation in the cow, is, on an average, two hundred and eighty-seven days, or forty-one weeks, with a bull calf; a cow calf comes one week sooner.

The best cow may be spoiled by not milking clean; too much attention therefore cannot be paid to this subject. The udder should be perfectly drained to the very last dripping; for besides the extreme injury ultimately caused to cows by leaving a part of the milk, the last milk is always far the richest, according to the remark of an experienced Cheshire dairyman, "each succeeding drop the cow gives at a milking excelling the preceding one in richness."

Sore or chapped teats, so common an evil, may be very effectually prevented by washing them perfectly clean with cold water always before milking. Very bad cases have been thus perfectly cured in a few days.

From Chaptal's Chemistry applied to Agriculture.

SUCCESSION OF CROPS.

But however well adapted the soil and climate may be to the cultivation of any particular kind of vegetable, the former soon ceases to be productive if constantly appropriated to the culture of plants of the same or analogous species. In order that land may be cultivated successfully, various kinds of vegetables must be raised upon it in succession, and the rotation must be conducted with intelligence, that none unsuited either to the soil or climate may be introduced. It is the art of varying the crops upon the same soil, of causing different vegetables to succeed one another, and of understanding the effect of each upon the soil, that can alone establish that good order of succession which constitutes *cropping*.

A good system of cropping is, in my opinion, the best guarantee of success that the farmer can have; without this, all is vague, uncertain, and hazardous. In order to establish this good system of cropping, a degree of knowledge is ne-

cessary, which unhappily is wanting to the greater part of our practical farmers. I shall here state certain facts and principles which may serve as guides in this important branch of agriculture.

Principle 1. All plants exhaust the soil.

Principle 2. All plants do not exhaust the soil equally.

Principle 3. Plants of different kinds do not exhaust a soil in the same manner.

Principle 4. All plants do not restore to the soil either the same quantity or the same quality of manure.

Principle 5. All plants do not foul the soil equally.

From the principles which I have just established, we may draw the following conclusions:

1st. That however well prepared a soil may be, it cannot nourish a long succession of crops without becoming exhausted.

2d. Each harvest impoverishes the soil to a certain extent, depending upon the degree of nourishment which it restores to the earth.

3d. The cultivation of spindle roots ought to succeed that of running and superficial roots.

4th. It is necessary to avoid returning too soon to the cultivation of the same or of analogous kinds of vegetables, in the same soil.

5th. It is very unwise to allow two kinds of plants, which admit of the ready growth of weeds among them, to be raised in succession.

6th. Those plants that derive their principal support from the soil, should not be sown, excepting when the soil is sufficiently provided with manure.

7th. When the soil exhibits symptoms of exhaustion from successive harvests, the cultivation of those plants that restore most to the soil, must be resorted to.

These principles are confirmed by experience; they form the basis of a system of agriculture rich in its products, but more rich in its economy, by the diminution of the usual quantity of labor and manure. All cultivators ought to be governed by them, but their application must be modified by the nature of soils, and climates, and the particular wants of each locality.

A baked potato pudding.—Mix twelve ounces of potatoes boiled, skimmed, and mashed, 1 oz. of suet quarter of a pint of milk, and 1 oz. of cheese grated fine; add as much boiling water as is necessary to produce a due consistency, and bake it in an earthern pan.

American Cities.—The population of six of the largest cities in the United States is as follows: New York, 269,873: Philadelphia, 200,000: Baltimore, 92,000: Boston, 78,602: New Orleans 60,000: Charleston, 34, 500.

From the Yankee Farmer.

PLASTER.

Mr. Cole,—I observe that the Farmers in this region have, this year, purchased larger quantities of Plaster than formerly, and appear determined to give it a thorough trial.—If you could favor us, through the columns of the Farmer, with an essay on the proper application of it, respecting the quantity per acre, and the most proper time to apply it to the different crops and soils, you will doubtless oblige many, particularly one in

Waldo County.

With pleasure we shall give all the information we can on the subject. We have selected several valuable articles which we hope will be of much advantage to those who are disposed to try the use of plaster, as it will enable them to learn from the experience of others.

Gypsum, or Plaster of Paris.—It is said that the properties of gypsum as a manure were first discovered in Germany by a laborer at a quarry of that substance. In passing across a meadow to shorten the distance home he observed the luxuriance of the grass, where he had walked, and supposing it to be caused by the dust of the gypsum from his feet and clothes made experiments, which verified his supposition.

Great difference exists among agriculturists respecting the uses of gypsum and the manner of its operation. Some have supposed that its efficiency as a manure is altogether owing to its power of attracting moisture from the air. But Sir Humphry Davy expressed an opinion; that but little effect can be produced by such an attraction. 'When combined with water,' he observed, 'it retains that fluid too powerfully to yield it to the roots of the plant, and its adhesive attraction for moisture is inconsiderable; the small quantity in which it is used likewise is a circumstance unfavorable to this idea.' Some have supposed that gypsum assists in the putrefaction of animal substances and the decomposition of the manure in the soil. This philosopher, however, proved by repeated experiments, that it rather retards than accelerates putrefaction. He likewise says, 'In examining the ashes of sainfoin, clover and rye grass, I found that they afforded considerable quantities of gypsum; and this substance probably is intimately combined as a necessary part of the woody fibre. If this be allowed, it is easy to explain why it operates in such small quantities: for the whole of a clover crop, or sainfoin crop, on an acre, according to my estimation, would afford by incineration only three or four bushels of gypsum. The reason why gypsum is not generally more efficacious, is probably, because that most cultivated soils contain it in sufficient quantities for the use of the grasses.

In the common course of cultivation gypsum is furnished in the manure; for it is contained in stable dung, and in the dung of cattle fed on grass. Lord Dundas informs me, that having tried gypsum without any benefit on two of his estates in Yorkshire, he was induced to have the soil examined for gypsum, and this substance was found in both soils.—*N. E. Farmer.*

It has been ascertained by repeated experiments that a liberal application of plaster to clover, at the time of turning it down, and preparing for a wheat crop, is by far the most advantageous to the crop; and much preferable to turning in the clover in the usual way, and plastering on the surface. The action of the plaster, thus excluded from atmospheric air, upon the clover, covered over, is instantaneous, and the putridity is so certain as to cause considerable gas, which in its passage through the clod, impregnates it with all its manuring qualities, and the root of the plant shoots down and feeds on a bed of manure.—*American Farmer.*

A writer for the New England Farmer, vol. ii, p. 10, states in substance as results of his experience that plaster was found by him to be useful as manure, after having been kept on hand in a box seven years;—that its beneficial effects on pasture land are very great. He sows it on the same piece of ground every second year, and thinks five or six pecks to an acre are sufficient; that his pasturing is essentially improved by that application, producing nearly double the quantity of food which it formerly did—that sowing plaster on his grazing land had a tendency to destroy the bushes, by giving increased luxuriance to the grass—that this manure has been found very useful for flax and potatoes, &c.

Plaster and Leached Ashes.—Mr. Goodsell—I have observed in your paper much said on the effects of plaster. From my own experience I am much in favor of plaster. I use from three to five tons yearly, and when I apply it to corn, which I have done for three years past, I mix it with one half leached ashes, as they are leached for common family use; put it in a cart, and shovel and mix it well. I then put one gill to the hill immediately after the first hoeing, and the same thing over after the second hoeing. I have tried the same quantity of clear plaster, side and side, twice, and find the mixture to produce the greatest effects. The two ingredients, when mixed, appear to produce a much greater power of attraction. My neighbors tried it last season, to great satisfaction, and will hereafter use them mixed even if the cost were the same.

Gen. Farmer.

Col. Taylor, formerly of Virginia, an eminent scientific and practical agriculturist, observed, in substance, that he sowed of plaster from three pecks to one bushel the acre. Sown on clover in the Spring it benefits considerably. He supposed it to be a valuable ally, but by no means a substitute for manure—that there should be intervals of two, three or four years between applying it to the same land—that its effect is graduated by the quantity of vegetable matter in the soil on which it is sown—that all crops are ultimately improved by its improving the soil, even when its effects are not immediately visible.

M. Cannolle, a French writer, observes that plaster operating chiefly on the absorbent system of plants, its effects are not like those of manures buried in the soil, which act principally on the roots. The quantity of plaster spread upon the land is so trifling, that it can have little effect on the soil. "I speak from experience. Plaster buried in the earth where sainfoin has been sown, has produced no visible alteration, whilst the same quantity of plaster over the same surface of sain foin, has produced the most beautiful vegetation."

Dr. Cooper of Philadelphia says, "Gypsum is not part of the *food* of plants; it is a manure of *stimulus:* exciting the organs of the plant to stronger action. It will not answer beyond two and a half bushels to the acre; one and a half bushels is better. It will not answer on wet, or swampy, or clayey soils. It should be scattered over the ground as a top dressing.

Dr. Gorham of Boston gave it as his opinion "that when the plaster of Paris is applied to the seed, it stimulates the little rod, the action of the vessels is thus increased, absorption goes on more rapidly, and it requires more nourishment in a given time than in ordinary circumstances; the consequences are a quick growth and an enlargement of the organs," &c. Sir Humphry Davy, however, supposes that plaster composes a part of the substances of certain plants which cannot grow to perfection without that part; and that its application is useful to all soils of which it is not *naturally* a constituent part.

N. E. Farmer.

The Hon. J. Lowell, in an article published in the N. E. Farmer, contradicts an idea, which has been generally prevalent, that gypsum is of no use to lands near the sea coast, and observes as follows:

'I shall set out with the fact, that plaster has been used with success on lands on the sea coast of France, where the southwest wind, the prevalent one in summer in that country, brings with it the ocean air; and in our country, in Massachusetts for example, the prevalent winds do not bring with them an atmosphere filled with saline particles. It cannot therefore be the vicinity to the sea which renders gypsum inert and inefficacious with us. The cause of its inefficacy near the sea coast must therefore be sought for in

something else; in the nature of our soil, perhaps already sufficiently imbued with the constituent parts of gypsum, or in our more free use of stable manure, which furnishes the plants with all the food they required.

'I have been in a constant and invariable course of experiments on Plaster, and these are the results. It seems to be of no use, *even* to *clover*, on low meadow lands—of no use to *any* plants on a good, rich, well manured soil. But I have three decisive proofs of its utility on dry, hilly, gravelly soils.

'The first I shall mention was an experiment made by the late Ralph Smith, Esq., of Roxbury, on a lofty hill of old pasture land. He applied it for several years, and his own conviction was, and it was also the full conviction of many others, that it materially improved the condition of his pasture. It was green at an earlier period, and the white clover came into it more generally and luxuriantly than into other lands in the same situation.

'Seven years since, I applied Plaster to a newly laid down field of clover—one half of which was a dry gravelly knoll, with very little vegetable soil. When it was fit for cutting, I showed it to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and without pointing out to them the part to which the Plaster had been applied, they at once, on sight of it, detected and pointed out the superiority of the crop on the part to which the gypsum had been applied; and their designation agreed, by metes and bounds, with the stakes I had driven, indicating the part to which Plaster had been applied, and which were then concealed by the grass. This superior crop was on a pure gravelly soil, far inferior to the rest, which was a deep rich loam.

'This year I had a piece of clover in its second year of growth. It was similarly situated. Two thirds of it was a gravelly thin soil. I cut the whole on the 10th day of June. The gravelly part, owing to the drought, did not yield more than half a ton to the acre,—the rich part an excellent crop. As soon as the hay was in, I gave a dressing of Plaster to the gravelly knoll *only*, at the rate of three bushels to the acre.

'The effect has been as great as has ever been represented to be produced by gypsum by persons in the interior. The second crop on the gravelly land is *far superior* to that on a rich and deep soil in the *same* field. It may be discovered at ten rods' distance; and you can mark by your eyes precisely the line of the ground, to which the Plaster was applied.'

Farmer, if all but yourself were blind, you would never want a broadcloth coat.

From the Farmer's Register.

ON TARRING SEED CORN.

KING & QUEEN COUNTY,
February 18th, 1836.

Agriculture is evidently the source of wealth; energy and support of every thing, therefore, which leads to instruct the farmer, should meet with his grateful acceptance, and be looked upon by the community at large as a *public good*' I have frequently observed premiums granted by the various agricultural associations in our country to those persons who furnished them with the most approved methods of husbandry. I do not propose myself as a candidate for such honors, and yet I hope what I have now to communicate will be as extensively useful to the farming interest as many plans already devised. Almost all the tide-water section of our state is emphatically a corn growing country; hence whatever course has a tendency to increase its product and lessen the labor of cultivation, must be deemed valuable. As the season for planting this great staple is rapidly approaching, permit me to suggest a few hints as to the excellent mode of preparing the seed corn.

Every farmer is well acquainted with the trouble and perplexity he is subjected to in re-planting his corn, merely on account of crows, black-birds, moles, squirrels, &c., which are ready (after the severities of winter) to welcome him to the field as their benefactor. No sooner has he planted his field over than he may begin the laborious and disagreeable task. These *rioters* very frequently, indeed, invariably, by their depredations, cause a great deal of unnecessary labor. This is an evil—and how is it to be remedied? Such a remedy must be of great importance to the farmer especially, and to the public in general. This is what I design to communicate—and it is as follows:—

I have for several years past previous to planting my corn, put it into a vessel, and put thereto as much tar (made thin by warming it a little, and diluting with three parts water) as would thoroughly wet the whole—then taking it out and mixing some plaster or unleached ashes by rolling them well together, which made it ready for planting immediately. This method has prevented the trouble of re-planting—the coat of tar and plaster being a preservative for the grain, and is a nauseous drug to these troublesome gentry, who so often rouse the anger of the farmer to no purpose. This is a method easily practised and undoubtedly deserves the attention of the farmer.

If this should prove equally useful to such as wish to give it a fair trial, as it has with those who have already made the experiment, the communicator will think himself abundantly rewarded.

HUGH CAMPBELL.

Notices of Progress in the Silk Business.

SEWING SILK.

We have taken the trouble to ascertain, as accurately as may be, the amount of sales of sewing silk by the wholesale dealers in this city, and find it falls but a little short of $25,000 annually. If to this sum is added the amount sold by retailers, and consumed in the large manufacturing establishments, most of which is purchased in New York, it is supposed the amount would exceed $40,000. If the sales and consumption are proportionably large in other places, the aggregate amount of the United States must be altogether larger than has been supposed.—*Silk Culturist.*

SILK.

The Editor of the Buffalo Whig acknowledges the receipt of a skein of silk, manufactured by Mrs. Reed, of Aurora, Erie county. It was from a crop of silk raised there by Mrs. R. this season. It is pronounced to be of superior quality, and equal to that which is found in our shops and stores.—*Ibid.*

I have received several skeins from the Lady, Mrs. Reed, through the agency of my friend Mr. Hervey Johnson of Erie Co., which for evenness of size and twist, and beauty of colors, equals any sewing silk I ever saw. E. S. W.

THE SILK BUSINESS.

We are pleased to find by notices in every direction of our country, that this lucrative branch of husbandry is fast finding its way to the favor of agriculturists. In the east every one with a farm, however small, who has not already made it a part of his system of husbandry, is preparing to do so, and associations also are forming to carry it on by companies on extensive scales.

In the *Ohio State Journal*, published at Columbus, we perceive that several enterprising citizens are about to introduce the culture of silk in that part of the west, having already engaged a plantation and purchased 25,000 mulberry trees with a view of entering upon the business immediately.

In *Virginia*, we have already stated in a former paper, in a postscript of a letter, that 40,000 mulberry trees had been set out in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg this fall; and we now perceive from a very excellent communication in the November number of that able periodical, the Farmer's Register, that the author, who signs himself "John Dickinson," is "so much encouraged from his personal observations at the cocoonery of Mr. Whitmarsh, Northampton, Massachusetts, that he is preparing to go in for an orchard of 15 acres, and accommodations for *five* millions of worms." He "counts upon giving employment of a lucrative character, not only to his own women and young slaves, but to many of the neighboring poor people." Heaven prosper him in his undertaking!

He is "happy to find that he shall not grope his way alone in this enterprise, as M. J. B. Gray, of Fredericksburgh, who has the means and youthful energy for the laudable undertaking, is going largely into the business." With the writer of John Dickinson, we say, "God Speed" Mr. Gray in his good work, and we will promise him this,—that long after he shall have been numbered with those that were, his name will be cherished as a pioneer in the glorious work of redeeming the land of his birth from the desolation that hangs with such threatening over a portion of it.

In *Maryland*, we have heard of preparations for the planting of *five orchards*, three in Baltimore county, one in Frederick, and one on the Eastern shore. There may be, and we sincerely hope there are, more; for sure we are, that no state in this Union is better adapted to the culture, or stands more in need of its redeeming influence. To these gentlemen we offer the sincerest wishes of our heart, that they may triumphantly succeed—they deserve to do so, and for their public spirit and patriotism, are entitled to the gratitude of every heart that clings to its native soil, and its hearths and fanes, with the affection of virtuous love.—*Farmer & Gardener.*

Pennsylvania.—A company with a capital of $50,000 has been formed in Philadelphia, called *The Beaver Silk Culture and Manufacturing Company.* The company have purchased land within a few weeks, in the vicinity of the Falls of Beaver, to the value of $30,000 or $40,000. *Ibid.*

Rhode Island Silk Company, late Valentine Company; established at Providence—Capital $100,000—machinery operated by a six horse power steam engine. Are erecting power looms, and will manufacture several hundred yards per week of rich and heavy silk goods. The company have an extensive and valuable nursery of mulberry trees now in cultivation, already containing 16,000 trees of five years growth, and are about putting out 40,000 more of three years growth in hedges, and it is calculated their ground will contain still 100,000 more, set in the same way. They have a cocoonery 150 feet long, built last spring.—*Silk Worm.*

Virginia Silk.—In our June No. we stated the fact of having seen the Bombyx Virginiences or native Silk Worm of Virginia, which are said to be found in great numbers on the plantation of J. B. Gray, Esq., Stafford Co. Va. The cocoons are found suspended on the Red Cedar, and yield a beautiful white silk of a white thread.

At the time referred to we had the promise of a scientific gentleman, about to visit Virginia, to give us further information on the subject. As the gentleman has either not visited Virginia or found it inconvenient to attend to the subject, we would thank some of our friends in that quarter to investigate the matter and communicate to us the result.

TENNESSEE SILK.

We have been presented with samples of two pieces of silk manufactured throughout, from the worm to the web, by the daughters of Jacob Easterly, Esq., of Cocke county. The two pieces measured between seventy and eighty yards, and in evenness of thread and firmness of texture, are equal to most of the foreign fabrics which we have seen.—*Knox. Register.*

CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG MEN.

LETTER XIV.

It is desirable to consider, somewhat more in detail, the nature of those temptations which assail the youthful mind. When we speak of temptation it is natural to connect with it the idea of gross and disgusting immoralities. The word, I am aware, is generally used in this sense; but it is my design to consider it in a more enlarged view, that I may embrace a class of persons who claim a freedom from base and sensual appetites, but who are nevertheless the victims of ruinous temptation.

I have spoken of wealth and fame as the great absorbing objects of youthful anticipation. This thirst for gain, and this spirit of accumulating property, generally operate as a barrier against the gross vices to which the idle are addicted. Such is the constitution of the mind, that, by having one ruling passion, it becomes comparatively indifferent to inferior impulses. Thus, when the desire of wealth or the thirst for honorable distinction, takes full possession of a man, it often raises him above the influence of mere animal pleasures; and I have known those, who, by acquiring such a controlling spirit, have been lifted from the degradation of the sensualist.

But are there no temptations connected with the pursuit of riches, or the stirring strife of ambition? Those who are enlisted in such pursuits, often look down with pity and disgust on the more voluptuary, as if the sphere in which they moved, were a guaranty against the influence of disreputable deeds. But those pursuits, honorable as we may concede them to be, are the occasions of temptation and sin, as real, if not as gross, as those of the sensualist.

I might first inquire, whether to make wealth the great object to which all our energies are devoted, be not an occasion of tempting us to ruin? In the affections and desires of the human soul, one object will predominate. That 'no man can serve two masters,' is as true when applied to earthly objects and pursuits, as when applied to the service of God and the world. You cannot be supremely devoted to the acquisition of wealth and at the same time supremely enlisted in the race for honorable distinction. Nor can you be entirely absorbed with the love of fame, and equally devoted to the amassing of riches. You need not be told, that if two rival pursuits cannot claim an equal share of your attention, it is utterly impossible you should love your Creator supremely, and yet set your highest affections upon any terrestrial object.

The temptations which wealth and fame spread for your feet, is such, that compliance detracts not from your influence or acceptableness among your fellow-men. They regard you as following a lawful occupation, or pursuing an honorable career. They analyze not your motives: and if they did, they would often render a favorable verdict where a more discriminating judge, He who holds the balances of the sanctuary, would pronounce you wanting. Still the temptation is a real one, and in the sight of Him who claims your supreme regard, compliance involves the soul in guilt, and subjects it to his eternal displeasure. I am now supposing that you render to every man his due, and pass along with the consent and approbation of the community. I do not suppose you dishonest in your dealings, nor oppressive in your demands. I am not attributing to you envy at the success of a competitor, nor a haughty and domineering spirit while in the possession of power. You are considered merely as a worshipper of Mammon, or a devotee of worldly elevation; rejecting the claims of your Creator upon your highest regard, and transferring the whole soul to wealth or to power.

You must acknowledge that there is something in the successful pursuits of these objects, calculated thus to seduce, absorb, and rivet the mind. Look at the man who experiences what are generally termed reverses of fortune. If he has given his highest regard to earthly grandeur; if he has sought it in the pageantry of wealth, or at the post of honorable distinction: and if he now finds his expectations suddenly blasted, what a vacuity marks his countenance, and what a desolation broods over his soul. He had fixed his hopes no higher than earth, and placed his affections on the distinctions which she holds out; and as those hopes are blighted, there is nothing left but despair; and as the objects of his affection are gone, his mental energies are wasted in self reproach. Here is an evidence, that pursuits, which under certain circumstances are lawful and honorable, may become the occasion of temptation and ruin.

There is no difference in the effect upon the mind, between him who is successful, and him who is disappointed. If both have made those pursuits the great end of their being, both have become involved in the same criminality, and the only difference is, that he who is unsuccessful, has the misery of disappointment, to give additional pungency to the goadings of conscience.

The successful candidate for wealth or fame having overlooked the more important interests of another world, finds another drawback upon his exultations, arising not only from numerous and vexatious cares, but from the consciousness of having set aside the claims of his Creator.—The temptation was alike irresistible. They sought an earthly portion, and despised the heavenly inheritance. They preferred the service of the world to the service of their God.—They were strongly tempted to this by the impulse within, and by objects without; and while no gross immoralities attach to their character, they fall under condemnation of that law, which enjoins upon us all, supreme devotion to our Creator.

In the pursuit of wealth or fame, this one danger, and an insidious one it is, lies in your pathway and demands a cautious eye. Remember, that 'no man can serve two masters; no man, while loving the world supremely, can love God. 'For if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.' Yield to temptation on this point and you yield all. You do not in the eye of the world become disreputable; you do not lose the respect and confidence of society; but you forfeit the favor of God, and the fruition of heaven.

EARLY HOURS.

The earlier rest is taken, the more satisfying and beneficial it will be found. "One hour before midnight is worth two afterwards."—This is a common and true saying; but it is not to be supposed that two hours in the morning will make up for the loss of one at night.—Nothing can be farther from the truth. The loss of night sleep is injurious, but indulgences in day slumbers is still more so. In case of having been disturbed one night, the best way to replace the loss is to go to bed one or two hours earlier, rather than to be later in the morning. Attention to these particulars would do much to preserve health.

To make plain gingerbread.—Mix three pounds of flour with four ounces of moist sugar, half an ounce of powdered ginger, and one pound and a quarter of warm treacle; melt half a pound of fresh butter in it; put it to the flour and make it a paste; then form it into nuts or cakes, or bake it in one cake.

From the Farmer & Gardener.

CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES.

ENGLISH DWARF BEANS.

The following varieties of this favorite vegetable should be planted as early as possible—viz: the *English Dwarf*, or *Snaps*, the *Broad Windsor*, the *Early Long Pod*, or *Nonpareil*, Early Lisbon, Early Mazagan, &c. To state any particular day when they may in safety be planted in the spring, in a clinate so variable—so eccentric as ours—would be beyond our power at all times; but plant as early as possible—that is, as soon as the rost is thoroughly out of the ground.

For *Beans*, a strong, heavy soil is decidedly best; but you must see that the soil is not too wet when you work it. Your bed should be well manured and dug, raked finely, laid off into drills 3 feet apart, and the beans 4 inches asunder. Cover them over about an inch deep.—When the beans are up about two inches, stir the earth around them, and you must hoe between and around them as they may subsequently require working. As these beans are hardy, there is but little danger of their being injured by any frosts which usually occur in the month of April.

If all of the above sorts were planted at the same time, the different degrees of their earliness would ensure you a successive supply of beans for your table. And in order to prolong the period of your indulgence in these delicacies, you should plant them at intervals of a week throughout the month of April. They will be fit for the table in June.

KIDNEY DWARFS OR SNAPS.

Any of the following kinds may be sowed any time from the beginning of April until September, viz:

Early yellow six weeks; early mohawk, speckled purple; early cream colored six weeks; early china dwarf red eye; large white kidney; refugee, or thousand to one; early yellow, Rob Roy, red Marrow, or Valentine, white Marrow, or Cluster; red speckled or French, early dun colored or Quaker; Warrington or Marrow; Dwarf white Cranberry; Dwarf Dutch case knife; early white Flageolet, &c.

Prepare the ground and plant as above directed.

The latter variety when pulled for cooking must have the stalk end first cut off, then turn the point and strip off the strings. They are always best when fresh pulled; but should they have been any length of time gathered, have a vessel of cool water with a small quantity of salt dissolved in it, and as the beans are cleaned and stringed, throw them in. Boil them in water with a slight portion of salt in it for 20 minutes, when they will be done sufficiently: dress them with drawn butter and pepper.

ON TAKING HONEY.

Mr. Editor: As the season for taking Honey is not very distant, I offer you my plan, as it may be of service to the lovers of good eating. I commence to rob or drive whenever my bees begin to lie idle; this is about the last of May or first of June: this is a good indication of their being full of honey. I rob once every fourteen days, taking out about one fourth or third of the contents of the gum or box. I never rob later, than the fourth of July, nor drive after the 20th of June. This allows them time to make the new comb, which they cannot make after the 25th of July.

In robbing I invert the hive and bind up the mouth, then knock on the gum with a hammer for about ten minutes; this makes the bees quit the head and go to the other end. The gum is then laid down, with the mouth the highest; this is to let all the loose honey run out. The head is now taken off, and the honey taken out, without much smoke. Tobacco smoke should never be used. The gum is suffered to lie on its side till morning; this is for letting it drain. By following this plan, but few bees are either crippled or drowned.

I drive each stock once in two years. If the comb remains longer it becomes black, and the bees will not, in my opinion, raise as well. Driving is performed by placing the gums together, and binding them securely with a cloth—with the empty one as much higher than the other as possible; when knocking is resorted to as in robbing. The less smoke that is used the more tractable the bees will be.

WM. H. RAIFORD.

WEDDING STORY.

In the Palatinate of Germany there lived a fine young fellow, an only son of a rich nobleman.—He paid his addresses to an only daughter of a gentleman quite as rich as his father. In every particular the young couple seemed a suitable match. When all due arrangements were adjusted between the parties, the young nobleman politely addressed the damsel's father and requested his daughter in marriage. The old gentleman instantly refused, to the no small chagrin of the young man. 'But why is this denial? what can induce you to withhold your daughter?' says the young fellow. 'I am, said the father, resolved never to marry my daughter to any man whatever, who has no trade.' My fortune is sufficient to support your daughter and myself, and if that is not sufficient, surely your daughter's *patri*-money will amply supply the lack, replied the suitor. 'Our country is liable to be overrun with war,' rejoined the old man, and property is insecure. I cannot give my daughter to any but a mechanic.' How long, says the young man, will you retain your daughter for me to learn the trade? 'As long as you please, replied the father.

The young man apprenticed himself immediately, to a basket maker, and in six months returned with perfect specimens of his skill. The nuptials were celebrated.

But now is seen the sageness of the old man's advice. A short season only elapsed, when war devastated the country, the property of both families failed, and the young man supported in *style*, both his own and father-in-law's family by his trade.

EDITOR'S NOTICE.

Frequent applications for Subscriptions to commence at periods other than the commencement of a year, and some directions for discontinuances at similar periods, having been of late received, the Editor is under the necessity of again stating, that in future no subscription will be received which is not to commence at the beginning of some one year of the paper—that is to say, with No. 1, No. 13, No. 25, &c., and that all discontinuances must be forwarded in time to be entered during the current year, say one month before its expiration, otherwise they will not be considered as taking effect, except from the expiration of the year in which they are received. When it is recollected, that it is proposed to bind in volumes for sale, all surplus copies of this work which may remain on hand after supplying subscribers, and that, consequently, if a subscription is received or discontinued at any other time than at the commencement or end of a year, all the remaining copies for that year form a broken set, of no value, and are an entire loss to the Editor, it is hoped that the reasonableness and propriety of the above rule will be so evident as to meet the approbation of all.

Gentlemen who are disposed to patronise the work, by acting as Agents for it, are earnestly requested to apprise the Editor of their willingness to do so, that their names may be announced to the public at as early a period as possible. The want of a sufficient number of active Agents is believed to be the principal obstacle at this time to the general and extensive circulation of the work. The Editor relies exclusively on the agency of its friends to supply this deficiency.

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